



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

### 72-HOUR REPORT

22 JULY 2019

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#### (U) CALIFORNIA

##### **(U) Sacramento – \$30 Million in Black Market Cannabis Seized from Illegal Pot Shops**

(U) California authorities have seized \$30 million in pot products, but legal industry leaders say enforcement is still inadequate to break the dominance of the black market in the state. In 2018, the state Bureau of Cannabis Control and local law enforcement served six search warrants on unlicensed pot shops and seized some 1,594-pounds of cannabis worth \$13.5 million. During the first six months of this 2019, 19 search warrants on unlicensed sellers were served resulting in more than 2,500-pounds of illegal marijuana products with a retail value of \$16.5 million.

SOURCE: 22 July 2019, [Los Angeles Times](#)

#### (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

##### **(U) California – Smugglers along California Border are Increasing Smuggling People Instead of Drugs**

(U) San Diego – Federal agents who patrol US waters from north of Tijuana up to Los Angeles say that drug smuggling has dropped off. The total amount of illicit drugs seized in the 2019 federal fiscal year has dropped significantly from previous years and is expected at one-tenth of the amounts found in each of the last five-years. “Humans that are being smuggled across are paying \$10,000-\$15,000 per person, and when we talk about those other than Mexicans, such as Chinese, they may go for tens of thousands of dollars,” an official with the US Customs and Border Protection explained.

SOURCE: 19 July 2019, [The Washington](#)

#### (U) NATIONAL

##### **(U) New York – US National Charged with Providing Material Support to ISIS**

(U) New York City – Ruslan Maratovich Asainov, a naturalized US citizen born in Kazakhstan, has been charged with providing and attempting to provide material support, including training, services and personnel, to the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), a designated foreign terrorist organization. Asainov was detained overseas by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and recently transferred into FBI custody.

SOURCE: 19 July 2019, [US Department of Justice](#)

##### **(U) Virginia – 3 Members of California White Power Group Sentenced to Prison**

(U) Richmond – Three members of a white supremacist group that was based in Southern California have been sentenced to prison for their roles in provoking violence at a deadly far-right rally in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017. Benjamin Daley, a founder of the now-defunct Rise Above Movement, was sentenced Friday to 37-months in prison. Thomas Gillen, a Redondo Beach resident, was sentenced to 33-months, and Michael Miselis, a member who worked as an aerospace engineer for Northrop Grumman, was sentenced to 27-months.

SOURCE: 21 July 2019, [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

**UNCLASSIFIED****(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Afghanistan – Suicide Bombing Attack Afghan Ministry in Kabul**

(U) Kabul – As students waited outside Kabul University to take fourth-year exams shortly after daybreak on 19 July, a suicide bomber drove up and detonated an explosive device, killing 10 people and wounding 33. No organization has claimed responsibility.

SOURCE: 19 July 2019, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Argentina – Hezbollah Designated as Terrorist Organization by Argentine Government**

(U) Buenos Aires – Argentina has designated Lebanon's Hezbollah movement as a terrorist organization and has frozen its assets. It accuses the Shia Islamist group of being behind two attacks on its soil. The announcement was made on the 25th anniversary of one, the bombing of the Amia Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, in which 85 people died. Hezbollah is also designated by the US, UK, Israel and several Gulf Arab states, but Argentina is the first country in Latin America to do so.

SOURCE: 19 July 2019, [BBC](#)

**(U) China – Police Seize Largest Ever Cache of Explosives**

(U) Hong Kong – Police uncovered 2-kilograms (4.4 pounds) of high explosives, 10 petrol bombs, corrosive liquids, weapons and metal poles during a 19 July raid. Police have confirmed the arrests of three local men aged between 25 and 27 in connection with the raid at what officers called a homemade laboratory in the industrial area of Tsuen Wan.

SOURCE: 21 July 2019, [CNN](#)

**(U) United Kingdom – British Airways Suspends Flights to Cairo amid Terrorist Threat**

(U) London – The UK has advised against all flights to Egypt, except essential journeys, to or from the seaside resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. The airline British Airways (BA) announced on 19 July, the suspension of its flights to Cairo for security reasons, the British authorities evoking an "increased risk of terrorism against aviation". There will be no BA flights to Egypt for at least seven days. On 19 July, the German airline Lufthansa also announced that it had suspended flights to Cairo from Munich (southern Germany) and Frankfurt (Main), but only for the day, without giving of reason.

SOURCE: 21 July 2019, [AFP](#)

**(U) United Kingdom – UK Flagged Vessel Seized by Iran**

(U) London – On 19 July, the Stena Impero, a UK Flagged vessel, was seized by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in the key shipping route of the Strait of Hormuz after Tehran said it was "violating international maritime rules". The British Prime Minister described the seizure of the ship as "unacceptable and highly escalatory". The detainment of the Stena Impero marks escalating tensions between the UK and Iran, coming weeks after Britain helped seize a tanker carrying Iranian oil.

SOURCE: 21 July 2019, [BBC](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

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